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Victoria Street Newz

December 2006

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Vol. 3 No. 7

still questing for peace on earth

Musings on the NATO Police Action
in Afghanistan

by Don Startin

It came out of the blue. Someone said, "Don, can you write an article on Afghanistan for Street Newz?" To which I replied, "I suppose so." But then I began to ask some questions such as "what is the object of Street Newz?" Answer: "to help end poverty and homelessness by providing a voice and income opportunities for economically marginalized and socially disadvantaged people while, at the same time, offering employable skills training, increased self esteem, and pride in accomplishment."

It's a long shot, but by providing our readers with knowledge, even about wars, we empower them. This is because knowledge is one of the bases of power, and power will hopefully raise self esteem.

On October 28th, thousands of Canadians from across the nation marched and rallied for an end to Canada's military involvement in Afghanistan. In Victoria, Andrew Barry and the UVic club Students Against War organized a most professionally executed rally calling for the return of our soldiers from Afghanistan. The music was superb, the speakers were informative, the march well marshalled, and the event ended on an up beat with a magnificent rock band (Maurice) to send participants home with lifted spirits. A rich feast of backgrounders on the 'war' covered a table at the square so we could hone up on the issues when we got home - if we were lucky enough to have one of those.

Hearty applause also to the sponsors: The Victoria Peace Coalition, Council of Canadians, ViPirg, UVic Students Against War, Greater Victoria Seniors, Women in Black, Victoria Labour Council, Raging Grannies (who were, as usual, in good voice at the rally), Goods for Cuba, Victoria in Solidarity with Venezuela, Central America Support Committee, Communities Solidarity Coalition, Bread and Rose Collective, Canadian Department of Peace Initiative, International Socialists, and the Student Christian Movement.

Readers, friends, neighbours, these folks work democratically, openly, tirelessly, and non-violently to improve the lot of their fellow men and women right here on the streets of Victoria by opposing the corporate agenda and the globalization of poverty which are largely responsible for the hostilities in Afghanistan. If you aren't already a member of one or more of these organizations, now's the time to join and put your shoulder to the wheel.

In January, space and time permitting, we'll try to take the situation apart, but for now we invite you to read the speech Malalai Joya, the only woman M.P. in the Afghan Parliament, made to the NDP Convention in Quebec on Sept 9th 06. Clip it, put it in your jeans pocket, and reread it from time to time.

Malalai Joya's speech to the NDP Federal Convention Sept 06, Québec.

In the name of Democracy and Peace,

Dear friends,

I bring you the warmest greetings of Afghan people and before I speak of the situation in my country, let me express my heartfelt thanks to friends of the New Democratic Party for remembering their Afghan sisters and inviting me to this gathering.

Honorable friends,

Five years after the collapse of the misogynist and anti-democracy regime of the Taliban, and after almost five years of the US led attack on Afghanistan; you may like me to describe the achievements and positive outcomes in Afghanistan, but I'm sorry to tell you that Afghanistan is a land still burning in two-fold fire.



The US government did remove the medieval-minded regime of Taliban and their Al Qaeda masters. But instead they brought back the "Northern Alliance" to power who are brothers-in-creed of the Taliban and as brutal and anti-democracy as Taliban and even worse.

In December 2003, as a representative to the grand assembly, I talked about the criminal "Northern Alliance" and the danger they would pose to Afghanistan. But today, even the UN accepts that Afghanistan is going to become a narco-state under their rule.

I must tell you that unfortunately there has been NO fundamental change in the plight of Afghan people. When the entire nation is living under the shadow of gun and warlordism, how can its women enjoy very basic freedoms? Unlike the propaganda raised by certain Western media, Afghan women and men are not "liberated" at all.

Let's describe the tip of the iceberg on the reality of life in my crying country:

According to the United Nations it is a land that is facing a health disaster worse than Tsunami. 700 children and 50-70 women die on a daily basis owing to the lack of health services. Child and mother mortality rate is still very high as 1,600 to 1,900 women among each 100,000 die during childbirth. Life expectancy is below 45 years.

Suicide among Afghan women goes high in terrible degree, according to recent UNIFAM survey, 65% of the 50,000 widows in Kabul see suicide the only option to get rid of their miseries and desolation and that majority of Afghan women are victims of mental and sexual violence.

In a country which needs much reconstruction efforts, 40% of its workforce is unemployed and a gross-majority is living below the poverty. Afghanistan stands 175th out of 177 countries of the UN Human Development Index.

Ironically, this is happening in a country that has received 12 billion dollars while another 10 billion more were pledged at the London conference last year. But this money will mainly fill the pockets of warlords to better suppress our nation more severely.

The crimes and brutalities of the fundamentalist warlords are still going on even under the nose of the US and ISAF troops. "Northern Alliance" gunmen raped fourteen-year old Fatima and her mother and 11 year old Rahima and 60 year old grand mother, a land where 30 year old Amina was stoned to death, where Nadia Anjuman easily becomes victim of her husband's violence because he is sure that he has the support of warlords of the misogynist "Northern Alliance."

Under the Taliban, the vice and virtue department became a notorious symbol of arbitrary abuses, particularly against Afghan women and girls but today Afghan cabinet once again decides to reestablish this dreadful department instead of focusing on more acute needs of the Afghan society.

US-based Committee to Protect Journalists, in a statement stated last year: "Afghan journalists are facing severe pressure from the Afghan authorities, including threats, intimidation, even imprisonment and murder." This is the case while Mr. Karzai and Western media speak of freedom of speech in Afghanistan.

Those who speak for justice are threatened to death. On May 7, 2006, I was physically attacked by pro-warlord and drug-lord MPs in the parliament just for speaking the truth - crimes of Northern Alliance. One of them even shouted "prostitute, take and rape her!"



**"I think that no nation
can donate liberation
to another nation.
Liberation should be
achieved in a country by
the people themselves."**

(cont'd on page 2)

About Street Newz

"Building Bridges
within our Downtown Community"

Coordinator & Website: Janine Bandcroft
Deliveries: Nancy Raycroft
Distribution: John @ Douglas/Fort St.

The Victoria Street Newz mission is to provide a voice, and income opportunities, for economically marginalized and/or socially disadvantaged people, at the same time offering employable skills training, increased self-esteem, confidence, and pride in accomplishments.

Victoria Street Newz is sold by licensed vendors who sign a code of conduct. They buy the newspaper for \$.50 each, and resell them by donation. We like to encourage a sliding-scale economy which offers people a choice.

You can contribute to social change by supporting the Victoria Street Newz coalition and vendors, by reading information that informs you directly about poverty issues, and by taking action for progressive, peaceful, non-violent change.

Victoria Street Newz welcomes written submissions including interviews, event reviews, cartoons, poetry, photographs, or artwork, but we can't guarantee everything will be published. We reserve the right to edit, and will not print anything libelous, racist, sexist, or homophobic. Letters sent to the editor are assumed to be for publication, must include phone number or email (if possible, for confirmation) and may be edited for length. You can publish using a pseudonym, or anonymously.

Opinions expressed in this newspaper are not necessarily those of Victoria Street Newz, the editors, advertisers, contributors, readers, or publishers.

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ext 0137**

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Raging Grannies off to Afghanistan?

Story by Alison Acker

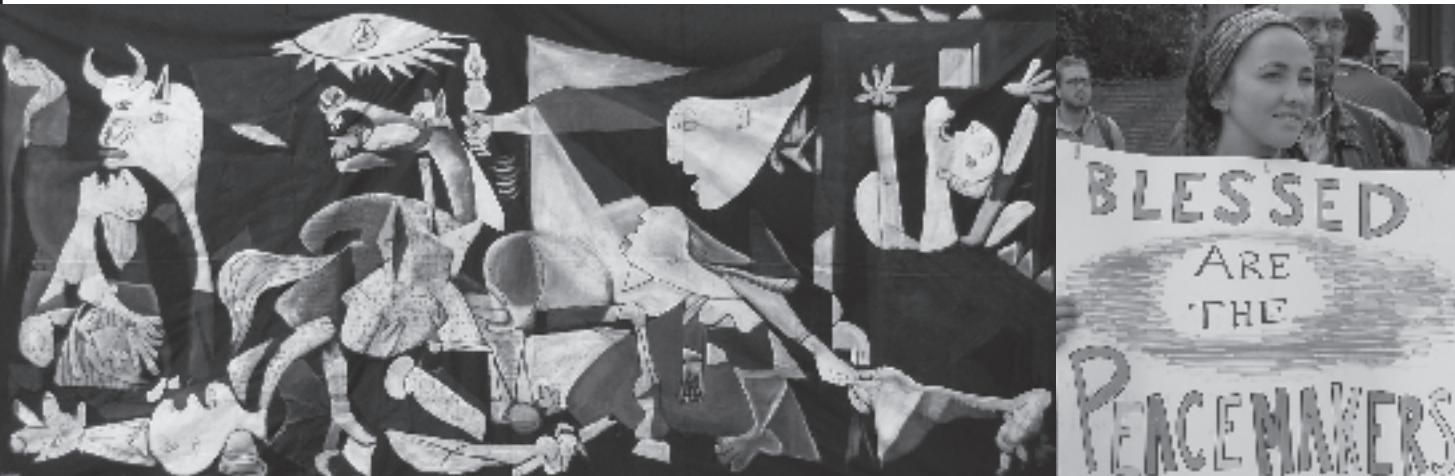
Victoria Raging Grannies took over our recruitment centre Nov. 9 for a group enlistment, insisting we be interviewed preparatory to heading for Afghanistan as peace-keepers, not war-mongers.

A dozen Grannies entered the centre full of arguments against Canada's military role in Afghanistan. We had already completed application forms, but now there were new forms and announcement of a new recruitment cut-off age of 60, which the polite but baffled staff hoped would send us away. Since none of the Grannies was quite sure of her date of birth, we were happy to sit down and count on our fingers.

We were so sorry the office was due to close at 4.30 pm but it was going to take more than an hour for us to decide how many push ups we could do and how long it would take us to run 2.4 kilometres, besides listing criminal convictions and courses completed since grade 10. And, of course, every word of the highly complex instructions in French and English had to be read aloud several times.

At last the Military Police arrived in flak jackets, prepared for trouble, but were soon lured into explaining about boot camp and regulations long after closing time. They didn't want to call the city police, and, please, would we just go away. No way. Three burly cops put on lovely black leather gloves and tried hard to look threatening but a hard core of Grannies weren't budging.

No, they would not arrest us civilians but said they were legally obliged to remove us, forcibly if necessary. Two of them struggled to lift up a sofa full of Grannies but soon gave that up. As our supporters had locked the front door with a bicycle chain, the only way out was the back door. Eventually, after demanding at least two cops escort each of us, that's how we left. But they now have our application forms and we'll be back.



Malalai Joya's speech to the NDP Federal Convention, con't from pg 1

President Hamid Karzai instead of relying on people to bring the criminal warlords to trial, appoints these criminals to higher posts. For instance, this year he appointed 13 former commanders with links to drugs smuggling, organized crime and illegal militias to senior positions in the police force.

It is due to the tragic situation in Afghanistan that returning to Afghanistan is an unattractive option for the 4 million registered Afghan refugees living in Iran and Pakistan.

Dear friends, the US government keeps promising not to repeat its past mistake in supporting the fundamentalists. But agonizing truth is that US is committing the same mistake. She is generously supporting the fundamentalists more than ever. The US is relying on "Northern Alliance" who turned Afghanistan into a hell from 1992-1996 and still are a great threat to the stability and peace in my country.

Kathy Gannon, an expert in Afghanistan justly states that "the US is not interested in peace in Afghanistan. The people who killed thousands, who patronized the drug business are in charge of the country."

Afghans, all justice-loving people, and international human rights organizations are demanding the trial of warlords and former pro-Moscow puppets. But they are not brought to justice but rather shamelessly were offered higher positions and were given opportunity to find their way into the parliament with the support of US and its allies.

The US government puts Gulbuddin Hekmatyar in the list of most wanted terrorists, but his party has 34 members in the Afghan parliament. US can work with pro-American fundamentalist, but oppose only anti-American fundamentalists. This is the reason that people make mockery of the "war on terror".

The parliamentary election itself was a shame to democracy while the Western media called it a great success. According to HRW [Human Rights Watch] the parliament is packed with more than 70 percent elements accused of war crimes, including members of Russian puppet regime, drug dealers, Taliban and "Northern Alliance" killers.

Dear friends, the USA is not concerned with the main cause behind terrorism in Afghanistan. That is why our people don't consider the US as "liberator" of our country.

I hope you have realized from the small parts of problems that I just shared, that my country is still in chains of bloody and terrorist fundamentalists. The situation in Afghanistan and conditions of its ill-fated women will never change positively, as long as the warlords are not disarmed and both the pro-US and anti-US terrorists are removed from the political scene of

Afghanistan.

I think that no nation can donate liberation to another nation. Liberation should be achieved in a country by the people themselves. The ongoing developments in Afghanistan and Iraq prove this claim. I think if Canada and other governments really want to help Afghan people and bring positive changes, they must act independently, rather than becoming a tool to implement the wrong policies of the US government. They must align themselves to the wishes and needs of Afghan people and stop any kind of support to the warlords and reactionary and ignorant element within the system. Only by such policy, they can gain people's trust and will prove themselves as real friends of Afghan people.

We are deeply sorry for the deaths of Canadian soldiers in Afghanistan. If the Canadian government could not act independently rather than following Pentagon's agenda, we are afraid the efforts of Canadian troops will first of all serve the US government and not the Afghan people.

We want the Canadian government must stress on the fact that criminals like Sayyaf, Rabbani, Qanooni, Mohaqiq, Fahim, Mullah Rakiti, the Khalqis and Parchamis should be removed from power and put on trial. The Canadian policy-makers must know that warlords of the "Northern Alliance" are equally responsible for the plight of Afghani people and the current tragedy in Afghanistan.

I am well aware of the hardships, challenges, and death from anti-democracy forces, but I trust my people. One day they may kill me as they have gun and power and support of the US government, but they can never silence my voice and hide the truth. Thank you.

In 1998 Malalai Joya was a social worker who established an orphanage and a health clinic. As a 25 year old elected representative in 2003, she participated in the creation of Afghanistan's new constitution. When Joya spoke against appointing high clergy and fundamentalist leaders to guide planning groups, on the basis that several were war criminals, she received numerous death threats, but she continued under U.N. protection. Today, Malalai is a populist hero who speaks at rallies, inspires debates on radio talk shows, and risks her life for the basic human rights of her people. In a recent interview when asked about her courage at such a young age, she said: "I have seen too many sorrows and I have no fear in my soul any more."

For more information:

www.malalaijoya.com

rawa.org - Revolutionary Association of the Women of Afghanistan

STATE OF POLICE

by Brian Mason

You need to be worried about the state of policing in Canada. But before I tell you why, let me start with a disclaimer: Like everyone else, I occasionally need the police, and I value their presence under carefully circumscribed conditions. That said, we are rapidly losing civilian control over our police, so necessary in representative democracies to preserve our rights and liberties. In British Columbia, this oversight responsibility is clearly outlined in the Police Act: municipalities over 5,000 people must establish a municipal police force to operate under the direction of an appointed, civilian police board. This civilian-constituted police board is responsible for determining the goals, priorities and objectives of its police force and for preparing the annual police budget for submission to elected city council. It couldn't be any clearer – policing in Canada is under civilian control. You may be surprised to learn this.

Once a nation begins to lose this civilian control, there follows a loss of freedoms and a slide toward the police state. Look at what's happened in the U.S.A. (and, more recently, in Canada under the Harper Conservatives): the creation of a perpetual crisis mode under the guise of fighting terrorism that allows law enforcement officials to intervene widely with few restrictions in the lives of citizens.

In Canada, we can afford to be neither smug nor complacent. In September 2006, the federal commission of inquiry into the Maher Arar case found that his kidnapping and torture by respectively USA and Syrian authorities occurred because of inaccurate, misleading and unfair RCMP intelligence reports. The commission, in its heavy criticism of the RCMP's handling of the case, also found the RCMP failed to properly supervise its newly created anti-terrorism unit. The RCMP later misled the Privy Council Office (our highest civilian administrative authority) about the case.

There are, moreover, many recent examples of serious wrong-doing by members of municipal police forces in Canada, likely the tip of the iceberg within our secretive and insular police community. Vancouver's police force, beginning in the 1990s, experienced over a decade of bad management, vicious bureaucratic infighting (leading to the early exit of its then police chief who had been hired from outside the force) and a culture of violence that led to the dismissal of several constables for beating a suspect. The corruption of Toronto's drug squad has been well documented, and the former head of the Toronto police union is now facing criminal charges. The Saskatoon police force's sad history with First Nations peoples is a national disgrace. The provincial government of the day nearly disbanded Saskatoon's force as the only way to root out its embedded culture of corruption and violence aimed at First Nations peoples, obliquely defended at the time by the police union. And for anyone who dares to criticize police actions, just ask the Edmonton reporter and the chair of its police commission who were staked out and harassed after being critical of the local force.

Whenever these scandals come to light, the police community normally responds in two ways. Police management invokes the few-bad-apples-in-the-barrel argument (as the RCMP has done in the wake of the Arar case) while police unions solemnly declare that police have a tough job which civilians just don't understand. Together with well-orchestrated public relations, these dismissive postures – hyped by fawning television and movie police dramas – create the mystique of law enforcement as a dangerous, special occupation. It's neither, particularly: as a dangerous occupation, it ranks below fishers, loggers, farm workers and miners.

Measured by entrance and training requirements or by scope of responsibility, police are greatly overpaid. Victoria, a small city by any standard – with a correspondingly small police force of 211 members and 73 civilian staff – had 39 officers who, in 2005, received more than \$100,000 remuneration, including overtime payments (another scam) but not expenses. Overall, about 90% of Victoria's police officers and civilian staff received remuneration of over \$75,000 in the same year. Not bad for a job requiring high school graduation and five months of police college, while on salary, at the Justice Institute. (Source: City of Victoria 2005 Public Bodies Report - available free from city hall.)

And, it's not as though police in Canada are actually effective at what they purport to do: prevent, deter and solve crimes. The hapless Oak Bay police force solves (clears) only 10% of the cases it investigates; Saanich, 24%; and Victoria, 23%. These clearance rates are a measure of the proportion of police investigations in which a suspect is identified who could be charged (whether or not the charge is ever laid is another matter). If any other government service was as spectacularly bad at what it did as the police are, taxpayers would demand a refund.

Police forces, despite rhetoric and symbolic action to the contrary, erect almost impenetrable barriers between themselves and the communities they serve. Police officers seldom leave the confines of their cruisers. Helpful policing (as in resolving and mediating problems in low-key ways, getting to know communities and residents, preventing crimes, detecting crimes, serving as a deterrent, gathering information) cannot be done at 50 kph from an armed cage. Robocruisercop is not the right approach. Police should be patrolling by foot, bike, electric scooter and golf-cart, horse, roller-blade, elevator, escalator, and by mass transit; in short, using every mode of transport except the car unless absolutely necessary. And without all the weapons and other scary paraphernalia! Breaking down barriers is not, of course, in police interests as it removes the burnish from the mystique; it pries them from the womb of traditional police culture; it explodes their hubris and reveals them for what they truly are, a taxpayer-funded, problem-solving service. This plain truth does not inflate their image at budget and salary negotiation times.

Strengthening civilian control to address these problems requires immediate action on several fronts. First, municipal police boards need loud, diverse, courageous and activist members who understand they are the bosses and who welcome public input. Second, police complaints authorities, also needing to be brought under civilian control, must be properly funded, staffed and empowered to take tough, effective, quick action when police wrong-doing is indicated. Their scope of authority, too, needs to be considerably widened. At the same time, the voice of police unions must be muted, and the police culture exposed and transformed.

Police agencies have a legitimate function in society only insofar as they are effectively governed by its citizens and conduct their duties within a moral sphere that respects community, place and individuals.

Submitted by Brian Mason, a writer, philosopher and environmental activist who lives in James Bay.

Time For Safety

by cyann ray

Now that we've lost an hour of sunlight and the wet, winter weather has arrived, it's time for a little chat about road safety. For cyclists everywhere I have just two words: GET LIGHTS. You cannot blame anyone for running you over if you are invisible. As for the driving population, the onus is really on you to keep us all safe. The most important thing to keep in mind is: SHARE THE ROAD....bikes belong. We don't block traffic, we ARE traffic.

Before I continue, let me assure you that I realize EVERY driver out there can probably rattle off a tale about some "damn cyclist," but the fact remains that cars are dangerous killing machines against which cyclists don't stand a chance.

I've been riding for nearly 40 years and not once has another cyclist screwed up in my vicinity causing me concern. However, drivers routinely put my life in jeopardy due to their absent-mindedness, their contemptuous, arrogant attitude or their basic lack of skill. Folks in vehicles rarely feel vulnerable. On the contrary, they often feel protected and over-confident. Cyclists don't have this luxury of ever feeling safe. There is no steel suit of armour protecting us. Most cyclists are painfully aware of how exposed and vulnerable they are. There are many people who would love to ride more but fear for their safety so they take the car instead.

There are also drivers who feel frightened, especially when passing a cyclist. These drivers are nervous and unskilled and should not be driving! Operating a motorized vehicle is serious business and best left to those who are skilled and confident.

Bikes are not only part of the global solution, they are an intricate part of a healthy lifestyle choice. Imagine the level of commitment to cleaner air and a stronger heart by most cyclists, who are willing to risk life and limb by venturing onto the roads. Keep in mind that cycling is a legitimate form of transportation and not simply a recreational vehicle. When the weather is bad and the traffic is thick, some drivers may be thinking: "Crazy cyclists! Why are they out in such dangerous conditions?" Well, we too have places to go and things to do. When I'm just riding for the sheer joy of it, I'm on the Goose. I'm sure most cyclists use the Goose trail as often as possible. Naturally we'd prefer to ride in a safe environment with no poisonous fumes or vehicular traffic.

Here's the biggest difference between drivers and cyclists: Most drivers view their vehicles as their home away from home. They select a tune, get a coffee, light a smoke, catch up on their phone calls and hold down conversations with passengers. They think about what they'll pick up for dinner, or they're looking for a parking spot. They're yelling at the kids in the backseat or they're hurrying to pick them up from soccer.

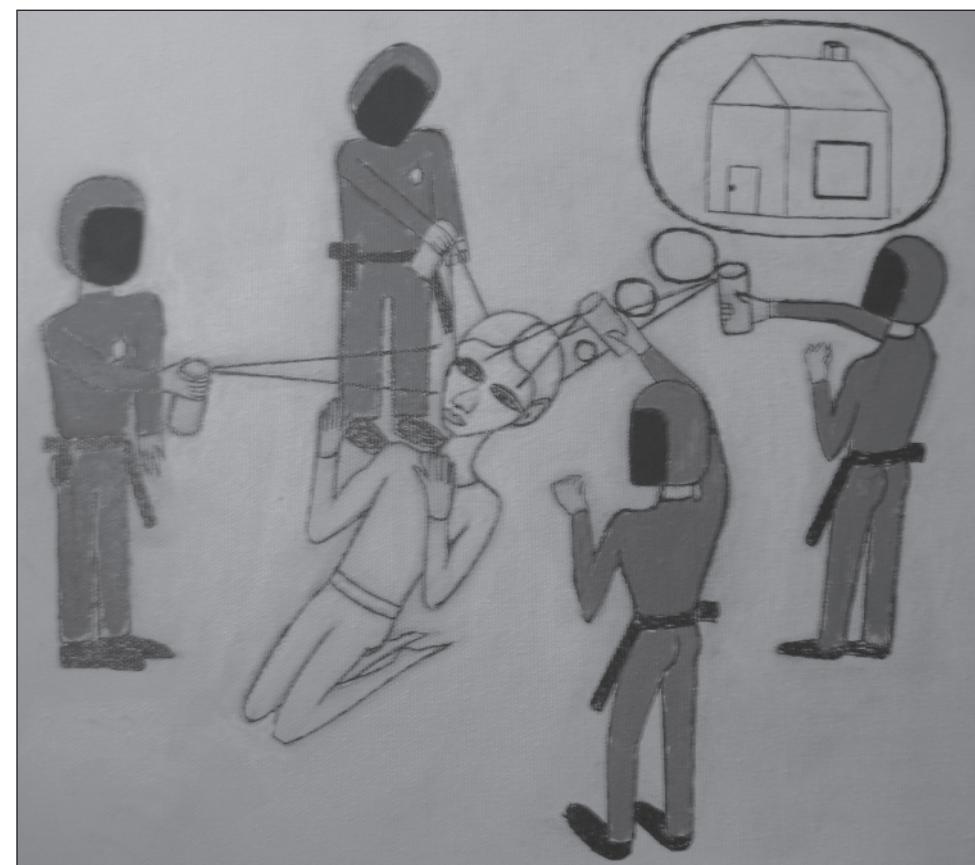
Most cyclists, on the other hand, are focused on just one task: STAYING ALIVE!! When you see me ride by I can guarantee I won't be sucking back a latte or trying to light a smoke. I won't be chatting on the phone or conversing with passengers. Instead, I'm looking out for thoughtless jaywalkers stepping out from between parked cars. I'm trying to make eye contact and remain visible in sideview mirrors. I'm reading tire positions of vehicles passing me, as only half of them bother to indicate their turns. I'm checking my rearview mirror for boneheads hugging the curb or swerving from side to side. I'm watching for parked car doors swinging open. I'm looking ahead at traffic lights and four-way stops so that I am prepared approaching intersections. I'm trying to avoid joggers that believe they're vehicles, not pedestrians, and insist on running in the streets. Plus I'm dodging broken glass and sewer grates. In a nutshell....I'm busy staying alive.

Add to this agenda wind, rain and darkness and you can see why it's so important that drivers do their part to ensure the safety of all of us using the roads. Think about it... as frustrated as you may be with cyclists, we are here to stay, our numbers are increasing and I'm sure that right or wrong, no driver wants to be responsible for killing one of us.

So... SLOW DOWN, SHARE THE ROAD, GET OFF THE PHONE and CONCENTRATE ON DRIVING. And with "Holiday Cheer" soon filling the air (and our glasses) I cannot stress enough the importance of remaining sober behind the wheel. Clearly, many of you have difficulty enough manoeuvring around cyclists - you certainly don't need to make matters worse by drinking.

Let's end the year on a positive note. Let's have each and every driver out there come home tonight and say: "Gee... I managed not to kill or frighten the pooh out of a cyclist today! Yeah for me for effectively sharing the road."

Yes indeed... Bravo to all those considerate souls whose patience and consideration has allowed me to live another day to ride!



Cops 4 the Homeless -- cartoon created by Craig



780 PEOPLE HOMELESS - ISN'T THAT NEWS?

From Moss Dance

On October 23rd I demonstrated with a group of people in favour of ending homelessness and poverty in Victoria. We marched because there are 780 homeless in Victoria and no substantial action is being taken by any level of government to secure affordable, healthy housing for this section of the population.

Apparently our group of peaceful demonstrators was perceived as a threat, because at some points in the demonstration, the number of cops came close to matching the number of concerned citizens who had gathered to support affordable housing. After I left the demonstration, tear gas and police dogs were used to clear a building (which has been empty for 30 years) of a lone squatter. During the tear-gas incident, a 10-month-old baby who was attending the protest with her parents was injured and had to be rushed away from the scene. Sounds like the empty building was served and protected in this situation. This ridiculous over-use of force is a joke, and puts our police team to shame. Who are the reasonable people in this situation? We need to ask ourselves, how can there be empty buildings in our city protected by police violence, and 780 people without homes? The Times-Colonist made no comment on the inappropriate nature of police strategies at Monday's peaceful demonstration. Luckily, many of us can and do think for ourselves, and are moving towards more critical, intelligent thinking in our communities.

Unfortunately, if we're looking for socially-responsible reporting, we'd be best not to look to the Times-Colonist. All of the salient facts relating to Monday's event can be found on page A3 in the bottom corner of the Tuesday, October 24 paper. Front page news was handed graciously to Victoria's police force, who, as it turns out, was rather clueless about the whole event.

Of all of the things that I witnessed last Monday, one moment remains very clearly with me. As we snaked through the streets of downtown Victoria, we chanted: "700 homeless in Victoria! Shame on the city of Victoria!" I heard a woman scream back at us "Shame on the homeless!"

Perhaps her poor-bashing is fuelled by the Times-Colonist, who's irresponsible, slanted propaganda does nothing more than stoke the fires of those who wish to hide in their hatred instead of finding real, compassionate solutions to ongoing social problems in our community.

Moss Dance lives in Victoria where she grows organic vegetables and plays music for a living. You can hear her music at www.mosssdance.com

A Day In The Life

Submitted by Craig Ballantyne,
SOLID & Our Place Volunteer, AVI
Rig Digger

Good morning, Victoria. Since this is the first time I've written to the people of Victoria, a short bio. I was born in Toronto, I grew up in Scarborough. I got kicked out of grade 12 for 3 days for smoking an oiler. So I got a full time job when I turned sixteen and the rest, they say, is history.

The team and I occupied the Janion Building in Victoria. The two main reasons I squatted the Janion is:

1. I did this to highlight the many problems that Canada, as a nation, does not address. This empty derelict building has sat empty for 30 years due to the wishes of a senior citizen. She's very old and suffers health problems so my heart goes out to her. Herein lies the rub: there are empty buildings all over Canada -- small towns, big cities, and everything in between, so I ask you people -- why do 47 percent of First Nations people live in poverty, while us poor white trash is, like, 12%?

I have many questions but few answers. Why, when every person in Canada pays taxes, has the problem of homelessness not been dealt with?! New York City had 12,000 homeless, now it has less than 1000.

2. I got tired of cleaning up dozens of dirty rigs (needles) on and around the building. Now this is a problem for Victoria and I have a solution. I belong to a group called SOLID. We have 150 members who run the gamut from abstinence to hard core abuse. SOLID people would only be too happy to pick up dirty rigs, on or around your house, place of business, etc., in exchange for a donation to the cause. We can do this 24/7. Obviously a sliding scale system would be best. A single mother on welfare would get a free dig (though a cup of coffee is always appreciated). A business like, say, Value Village, that could take an hour or two, we would appreciate fifteen dollars an hour.

Anyways, sidebar observation, those spirit bears all look like they're smoking a fatty. Secondly, why did the city cut down the tree in Cliffe Park?

And remember, until we keep the pressure on the federal government, when the budget comes out in February, Canadian people will still be like Hammy the hamster in his cage running in endless circles.

Anyways, it's raining. I wet. Ciao for now.

May the creator guide all of our paths.

Councillor Sonya Chandler recommended that a committee be formed, comprised of city councillors and representatives from the Ad-Hoc Committee, which might meet frequently to review in detail the recommendations which include drafting and implementing a derelict buildings by-law using a City of Winnipeg bylaw as a template, legalizing secondary suites and reviewing building permit and inspection fees/regulations that impede the expansion of this kind of affordable housing.

For more information please contact the Ad-Hoc Committee to End Homelessness: victoria@communitysolidarity.org

HOUSING FOR ALL NOW

summarized by janine

BROKEN NEWZ: VICTORIA'S HOMELESS SQUAT JANION BUILDING

by Crow Haven -- scooterii@icqmail.com

I have my own ideas on this ... as I am sure so do you.... Are we looking at the resurgence of Military Law? I think so... and I also bet all of our names are on the Pick Up list and the Watch carefully list.

It is so cold outside now... and as we were heading down to the bottle depot some poor woman approached me outside my home... asked for the bottles.... she was explaining her plight...about a protein allergy and could only take in Soy products... and her welfare would not cover any...she was crying away... so I gave her all the bottles plus the ten bucks I had in my pocket.... gawd.... her husband was with her and said it was harder on him to watch this than he thought it was on her.... O.M.G.

I was going to talk to her about the Palliative Care Diet allowance and how to get it etc. But the emotional feelings were pretty high. I forgot to say that she had just been diagnosed with Cancer. I did not pry but will likely see her again as she was door knocking asking for bottles and welfare day was just last week. Sigh... Heart breaking.

In Victoria, no one should have to be without.... just my opinion of course.....

Guess they have yet to figure out that many of the Homeless are Challenged Individuals that are suffering from either Untreated or Undiagnosed Emotional/Mental Illness and if they were not when they first became homeless a few weeks on the street would certainly put one over the edge. I think they are considering that most are Addicts and while that is true, to a point, many were not addicts until they could no longer afford to be housed and now Self-medicate in order to numb themselves from the turmoil's of daily living.

A couple of years back, VIHA was given over 6 million dollars to deal with Concurrent Disorders.... well WHERE did that money go?? NOT into Concurrent Disorders because as that was supposedly happening I was busy dealing with persons with Concurrent disorders who were REFUSED TREATMENT because it was a drug problem and not considered a mental health issue... that came right from Emergency Mental Health... when I tried to follow up on that statement and caused a bit of stress for VIHA on that issue.. I was blatantly told to NOT BE SO NAIVE and to FIND ANOTHER WAY TO WILE AWAY MY HOURS while a Doctor in Emergency patted me on the head.

Now I see that a few months ago, VIHA was given another substantial grant, without even dealing with Concurrent Disorder nor facilitating a Concurrent Disorder clinic. Further to this try to get a Psychiatrist to meet with a Caregiver or a Family member around issues of a mentally ill person and their circumstances or treatment... WON'T HAPPEN... I am right now in negotiations with the Chief of Psych and am about to move up the ladder one more rung.... IF I cannot facilitate something for the family I am advocating for.

Martial Law is here, only at this point still not formally declared. I think it will take another couple of years or a big 'HAPPENING' that would enable them to proclaim it. To date that has not happened even with the manipulations around Air Travel etc.

Sad sad sad.

I am now bugging the Deputy Minister to bring attention onto the over crowded jails and the fact that warehousing emotionally/mentally compromised is NOT the answer... and to also state that to warehouse them and place back in harms way is creating more problems and not resolving issues. Further, to designate MENTAL HEALTH ISSUES from CRIMINAL ISSUES and thereby set the stage for Community Advocates to make a case around treatment and housing issues for compromised people (not that 10 thousand have not already been made).

I am afraid that soon we will be seeing these people put into box cars and transported to some interment camp in the wilderness.... as in north of Prince George.

Shudder to think

Update: Representatives from the Ad-Hoc Committee to End Homelessness attended a City Council meeting on November 9th, to put forward their 'Recommendations for Action on Housing.' They were listed on the agenda, and forced to wait 3 hours - through a 45 minute uninterrupted presentation from a liquor store business proponent, 1 1/2 hours from disgruntled neighbours, and council's comments and subsequent disapproval - prior to having an opportunity to speak. When at last their turn arrived, their list of presenters was interrupted while Mayor and Council expressed their sincere concern about the homeless situation in Victoria, and told all the things they're doing to remedy the situation. However, many feel that placing the Ad-Hoc Committee so late on the agenda renders the Mayor and Council's priorities questionable.

Los Dias De Los Muertos

by Kym Hothead

The Days of The Dead, Los Dias de Los Muertos, is an ancient Mexican celebration honouring death, the fall harvest, and the new year. It's a time for remembering friends, family and ancestors. For more than 500 years, the goddess Mictecacihuatl (Lady of the Dead) presided over Aztec harvest rituals using fires and incense, costumes of animal skins, images of their dead and offerings of ceramics, personal goods, flowers and foods, drink and flowers. Nowadays altars are prepared, sometimes at the family grave site, with photographs, flowers, candles, favorite foods and drink of the loved one which provides a special time to remember, and to transform grief into acceptance. The living invite the spirits of the family to return home for a few hours of laughter, tears and memories.

In Victoria, on Nov 1st of this year, a gathering and parade honoured street involved women who have died on the streets. We met at Quadra and Broughton. We were a small but energetic group. Food Not Bombs brought some vegan / vegetarian sandwiches, and we had candy to share with the dead as we made altars along the way for the women who walk in the spirit world.

After honouring Mary Anne Ford at View and Government, police officers began to show up. Eventually a ghost car, a paddy wagon and a marked car harassed those honouring the women by trying to find an "organiser." Since we are a rag tag group everyone told the truth - we are all organisers. We are community women, we love, we are angered by violence.

At one point I turned around and there was suddenly a police officer asking me for ID. I was not carrying any ID and asked why he needed to see it. The police officer was not happy with that. He said I did some kind of motor vehicles offence and he wanted me to come with him. He took my elbow and tried to lead me away from the group. The group moved towards me, I said I did not want to go and he said I had no choice. I asked why. Many others asked as well. He mentioned I was parading illegally. I then turned and asked the crowd how many folks were parading on the street tonight, they all put up their hands.

The police got in their cars and left. They then decided, since they could not jack us up, they could jack up the homeless. One of the bluegrass singers began to sing a song about "we love cops who support people who support people...cops who protect the people..." She



just made it up right there. It helped. Someone then suggested we leave 'cause of the homeless getting jacked up. We needed to take the heat off of them.

Police Harassment / Hostility / Disruption. They disrupted a great community event. Women speaking out against violence, well, the system seems to really hate that. Speak out about homelessness and housing issues and you can land up in jail in this town.

Some women felt it was important to walk on the streets, so, we did. We walked carefully and with pride for all the women like Mary Anne Ford who was murdered, Lisa Louie who died of meningitis due to a minor knife wound to her back near her vertebrae. The presenting doctor at the clinic did not order an x-ray, he sent her home with an antibiotic prescription. Spike dying in custody, Michelle O'Brien dying of double pneumonia....

Our spirits back, after much dance, we walked back to the Park from whence we started. On the way, we met with one of the homeless women we had met earlier, she was now shivering on some steps at an old church building, we shared a warm vest and love and as much warmth and sandwiches as we had left. We also intervened with a fellow who was very upset, homeless and angry. We helped calm him down.

At the debriefing the first remedy given for such police harassment was "we have to have these rally's more often." How refreshing. So folks, whenever you see an anti poverty or housing rally, go. It seems it does make a difference.

We are a gentle angry people and we are singing, singing for our lives.

Women Helping Women Coalition is asking all women to go to Vancouver for the February 14th event. We want to support the women in the Downtown East Side. To sign up send email to icebreaker@homelessnation.org. If we get enough signed up, maybe a union will get a bus for us to go over on?

Thanks to the HEU, Yvette, Rose, Kym, Moss, Rose, Rachelle, Judy King (http://www.mexconnect.com/mex/_travel/jking/jkdayofthedead.html) and the many community women and men who came out in support, who made sandwiches, who brought the wheel barrel and so much more. This was truly a community event.

photo: Joeline Clarke

Bestowed with Charity, Robbed of Dignity: My Week in a Vancouver Homeless Shelter

By Tavis Dodds

Two things made me decide to spend a week in an emergency shelter for men: The first thing was when Vancouver Burrard MLA Lorne Mayencourt spoke to the Downtown Vancouver Business Improvement Association at The Four Seasons Hotel. Mayencourt wants to make a detox center in a rural area for substance abuse victims to be put to work. The idea is based on the model of an Italian institution in San Patrignano that Mayencourt visited last January. The other thing that influenced me to check myself into a shelter was the much-publicized trips of Vancouver and Victoria mayors to tour European facilities to see how they deal with poverty. I found myself wondering that with all these trips, how many of our wealthy leaders have even bothered to see what life is like in their own backyard? So I set off to document a week in the shelter over top the offices of the Diocese of Vancouver, and what I found was enough to challenge my faith in the church.

It is eight at night when I climb up the two and a half flight of steps. Substance abuse victims fidget in the corners. An old man struggles up one step at a time. The window sills are littered with bits of aluminum foil and scratch-and-wins. When I get to the top a man behind a plexiglass window takes my name and tells me to come back at midnight.

At 12:10 there are 7 men under the sign of Jesus holding a lamb. A man's voice comes through a little box on the wall and calls out three names including mine, the other men are turned away. Five minutes later a man opens the door and we climb up the stairs. We get buzzed through the door at the top and wait as each man is asked for his name, S.I.N.#, birth date, and signature. Each of us get two sheets, a blanket, and a pillowcase. 100 men sleep in four dorms with rows of a dozen beds down each wall. The beds are about 1 1/2 feet apart.

I find my bed between a substance abuse victim that can't stop fidgeting and a tidy, young south east Asian man. The room smells of dirty socks, my neighbour never stops moving about, and several men snore, but I am tired and I'm asleep by 1.

At 6 the lights come on, morning radio comes through the intercom, and a voice says "First call for meal tickets." I line up to sign for seven dollars in meal tickets and then stagger down the stairs and out into the cold. Many of the men are waiting for McDonald's to open so they can use their meal tickets. I decide to opt for the Senior's center and get a special omelet breakfast for my pink and white tickets, leaving me with a green 3.25.

When I get back to the shelter at 8:30 the man at the window tells me I don't have a bed and that I should have been back before 8. There is an old sign on the door that says "Ministry referrals only after 4. Self referrals only

after 8." So I thought I had to be back after 8. I come back at midnight but this time the voice does not come out of the little box on the wall until nearly 1. This time I get a bed illuminated by the light from the hall. I'm so tired I can't sleep.

The man next to me injects drugs into himself while watching for staff in the reflection in the window. Two men play cards in the hall. There is a smoking room with church pews full of men fidgeting with crack pipes. The continuous noise of flicking lighters is everywhere. Finally, I wad up toilet paper to stuff into my ears in hopes of warding off the roaring snores in my dorm.

On the third night I make sure to get back before 8. The man behind the window tells me I still don't have a bed booked and to come back at midnight. If I want a bed, he says, I should get a referral from welfare. I overhear a man arguing that he works and can't go to welfare. The staff explains to him that this is a business and if they don't get welfare referrals, they don't get paid.

The next morning I go to welfare and ask for a referral to the shelter. The man at the window tells me that they can't write a referral but he gives me a paper with an appointment time for a meeting with a social worker. He tells me that the shelter will like to see this.

At the Gathering Place Downtown Community Center I meet a man in the cafeteria line up. Dinner is 3.75 so I have to supplement my green ticket with fifty cents, but it is a big meal. The man tells me that dinner used to be 3.25, but it went up a year ago. He stayed at the shelter nearly ten years ago and tells me that he got seven dollars in meal tickets back then too. He says he doesn't do drugs, drink, or gamble. He tells me of how he's been staying at the shelter for more than three months and working for a granite business in Richmond for six weeks.

Welfare refused to give him a referral because he works so he had to check in at midnight every night. Finally, he started forging the referrals. He says he's really looking forward to getting out of the shelter, but he has no time to look for a place. He works six days a week moving granite slabs, and he only has a chance to shower on Sundays. If he can't find a place to rent soon he's just going to buy a camper and live on the parking lot at his work.

I show the man at the desk my appointment slip and he checks me in for a month. From then on I have the security of knowing my bed will be there. I also get a locker, but I must provide my own lock. My neighbour, a man so twitchy he looks like he's been ingesting bug poison, tells me I'd better get a lock because the place is full of thieves. Somebody had stolen his work boots before he'd had a chance to buy a lock and he's been out of work ever since.

I try the showers. Bits of toilet paper are all over the floor. A man is rinsing his socks in the sink and complaining that it takes more than two days for them to dry. There are no doors on the two toilet stalls. The toilet seat is melted. No matter where I stand in the shower room, I'm visible from the dorm. There is no control on the shower, only a button that must be pressed every minute to continue the flow of hot water. I use my sweater as a towel.

If men can come up with a dollar they can use the private showers and laundry facilities at the Gathering Place. They give me two towels and soap. One man gives me a pair of socks and says that it is not in the center's mandate to issue socks so I shouldn't expect another pair for a month. As I'm showering I notice itchy little welts on my wrists and ankles.

That night I ask my neighbour about the welts and he tells me that they're bed bug bites and that our dorm has them pretty bad. I hadn't noticed them before, but now I can feel the little creatures crawling all over me. I take my bedding into the smoking room but I can't find one. Finally, I manage to catch one, full of blood and therefore slower. It's nearly a centimeter long and looks like a tiny crab, normally flat but after they feed they swell up to an oval shape. The man on one side of me says that they don't bother him; he can feel them moving, but they don't bite him. The man on my other side is tormented. He has incredible swelling up and down both arms. That night he puts on all his clothes, even gloves, and tucks his pants into his socks. He pulls the drawstring of his hood tight and all you can see of him is his face. The next morning his face is swollen with bites. He complains to the staff at the front and they tell him that they are aware of the problem. He goes to a clinic and they give him two squirts of calamine lotion that does no good. I decide to throw away all my clothes when my time is up. That night we form a hunting party and kill many of the little parasites living in the seams of our mattresses, but they are fast and it is suspected that they are hiding in the ventilation system and in the cracks of the old building.

The next morning I decide to attend the morning Eucharist at the Holy Rosary Cathedral. I remember once, years ago, I had come into that cathedral and noticed that the tired were granted sanctuary and allowed to lie down in the pews. The policy must have changed because there is nobody sleeping in the pews anymore. The sermon is about how we should not be too poor or too rich. If we decide to become too poor, the priest says, we will become angry.

The next day it rains. They say it will rain for a week. The choking stench of rotting feet is unbearable. I decide to take the priest's advice and never become too poor, leaving my brothers behind in their church sanctioned hell.

Left Coast Happenings

Street Newz offers no guarantee that this info is accurate, or that the events will actually occur. Full events list published weekly at relativewnewz.ca.

Mondays	Movie Monday - 6:30 pm, Eric Martin Pavilion (1900 block Fort St. by donation 595-FLIC or www.islandnet.com/mm
Alt Mondays	Victoria Peace Coalition - 7:30 pm, dolcla@islandnet.com
Tuesdays	Voice of Palestine - 8-9 pm (PST) on 102.7FM. Listen live at http://www.coopradio.org/listen , archives in Audio Clips.
Tuesdays	Vic Bluegrass Assoc Jams 1620 Fernwood, Orange Hall, 7:30 pm 472-6483 free for listeners, \$2 for players - all levels
Tuesdays	Hand Drumming Drop-in, \$10. Beg: 7-8 pm, Adv: 8:15-9:15 pm 521 Superior Info 386-1054 Drums provided.
2nd Tuesdays	Green Drinks - Queen Mother Waterside Cafe, 407 Swift St 5-7 pm. Info: www.qmwaterside.ca or www.greendrinks.org
Wednesdays	Falun Gong faluninfo.net . Fernwood Community Centre, 1240 Gladstone 5-7 p.m. Info: (250)386-8805 free
Wednesdays	Peace Vigils @ the Legislature , noon - 1 pm - Peace Ambassadors greet int'l visitors! Imagine: War Never Again
Wednesdays	Recreational Drum Circle - 7pm, Dwntwn Community Act Ctr, 755 Pandora Free, Drums provided, all levels. 383-0076
Wednesdays	SOLID (Society of Living Intravenous Drugusers) except welfare day, 7-9 pm, 1947 Cook St. \$3 bus fare reimbursed
Wednesdays	Integrative Health Forum: INFORM yourself about health, 7-8pm, Free, Market Square www.pacificrimcollege.ca
Wednesdays	Lee Hamer, guitarist, at Fernwood Square's Forno Café , 6:30-9 pm By donation
Alt Thursdays	UVic Sustainability Project potluck meetings (local & organic) Harry Hickman Rm 116 250-721-7355 or uvsp@uvic.ca
Fridays	Coffeehouse discussion group 7:30 pm JJ's coffeehouse in Brentwood Bay 7:30 pm Info: sue_stroud@hotmail.com
Fourth Fridays	Café Simpatico, Activist coffeehouse , 1923 Fernwood. Doors at 7 pm. casc@telus.net , 598-7690, communitypipe.org
Last Fridays	Propel Yourself! Victoria Critical Mass Bike Rides - Centennial Square, 5 pm. bring bike, board, helmet, lights, bliss.
Sat Mornings	Sikh meditation -all welcome 6-7 am, Gurdwara Singh Sabha Society (470 Cecelia Rd) Info: jindi@hotmail.com
Saturdays	Plastic Recycling -soft & hard plastics, and styrofoam 382-4604, www.pacificmobiledepots.com
Saturdays	Tour Merve Wilkinson's Wildwood Forest , Ladysmith Info: Jay, 250-245-5540, www.ecoforestry.ca/WildwoodMap.htm
4th Saturdays	Soft Plastic Recycling -Carnarvon Pk, Oak Bay, 930-1230 pm, 370-7736, oakgreen@telus.net , www.pacificmobiledepots.com
Sat & Sun	Falun Gong faluninfo.net 10-noon, Beacon Hill Pk, across from petting zoo, all winter. 386-8805 free
Alt. Sundays	Sierra Club Nature Outings - Call Nikko for more details at 386-5255 x241, www.sierraclub.ca/bc
Sundays	Victoria Folk Music Society 7:30pm, Norway House, 1110 Hillside www.pacificcoast.net/~vfms or 413-3213, 24 hrs
Sundays	Immigrant Youth (12-18) Group @ ICA - 930 Balmoral, 1-3 pm 388-4728 or youth@icavictoria.org
Sundays	Join Victoria's Food Not Bombs and prepare, cook, and/or clean-up on Sundays (see pg 7) 383-5144 extension 1940
4th Sundays	Council of Canadians Coffee Nights 6:30-8:30 pm, Black Stilt Café, 103-1633 Hillside Ave. Info: 220-5355
Monthly	Faith in Action -a multi-faith coalition working to put more heart into BC's income assistance. www.bcfathinaction.ca
Monthly	Vancouver Island Vegetarian Associaton (VIVA) Potlucks www.islandveg.com
All month	CRD Parks outings and explorations for all ages. 478-3344 www.crd.bc.ca/parks/brochure2.htm
Ongoing	Auditions for Spilt Milk Improv Comedy Troupe 479-3374, spiltmilk@centralmail.com , www.spiltmilkcomedy.com
to Jan 12th	Minutia - Robert Kelly art installation at Maltwood, McPherson Library, UVic. 721-6562 or maltpub@maltwood.uvic.ca
Wed Nov 22nd	Friends of Animals meeting at Green Cuisine, 6pm RSVP - Dave@FriendsOfAnimals.org
Fri Nov 24th	Café Simpatico - Multi media presentation on Venezuela's upcoming presidential 8 pm, 1923 Fernwood Rd., 598-7690
Fri Nov 24th	Free Publishing Workshop from Thirdspace: UVIC Anti-Racist Feminist Zine 4:30-5:30, UVic SUB B011 thirdspaceuvic@riseup.net
Fri Nov 24th	World Federalist monthly public meeting: Wisdom Council Wrap-Up , 1:30-3:30, St. John the Divine Anglican Church, 1611 Quadra
Sat Nov 25th	VIDEA's annual Fair Trade Fair 10-4pm, St. John the Divine, 925 Balmoral by donation www.videa.ca , 385-2333
Sat Nov 25th	Zapatista Chronicles 2000-2006 - 7 pm, 140 Oswego (James Bay Community Centre. Info: 388-0936
Sat Nov 25th	Dance Fundraiser for the African Heritage Assoc. of Van Island 7 pm, 527 Fraser St.-Esq Rec Centre, ahavi@shaw.ca , 727-6454
Nov 28-Dec 9	United Nations Climate Conference , Montréal - www.climatecrisis.us
Weds Nov 29th	Afghanistan and Iraq: why these soldiers (1 Cdn, 1 American) won't fight! 7 pm, UVic HSD A 240 info: outofafghanistan@yahoo.ca
Thurs Nov 30th	Homeless Needs Survey Info Evening - needs volunteers 7-9 pm, Dwntwn Community Act Ctr, 755 Pandora. 414-4786, Coolaid.org
Fri Dec 1st	World Aids Day Info: Aids Vancouver Island - www.avi.org , 384-2366, info@avi.org
Fri Dec 1st	Women Confronting Imperialism: Cultural Resistance to Globalization & Colonialism 7-9 pm, 1923 Fernwood
Dec 1-5th	BC Women's Economic Institute Conference: Starting with Women's Lives: Changing Today's Economy www.atira.bc.ca/wei/
Sat Dec 2nd	The Global Climate Crisis: Seeking Solutions that Work course with Guy Dauncey \$95, 1-866-890-0220
Sat Dec 3rd	Stop Global Warming actions, nationwide - www.climatecrisis.us
Mon Dec 4th	New Moon (Earthdream) Meditation Group 7-10:30, 5990 Old West Saanich Rd. \$10 Info: Silverhawk 652-6558 www.corunum.ca
Weds Dec 6th	Nat'l Day of Remembrance & Action on Violence Against Women -Info: UVic Women's Ctr -721-8353, SWAG-pacificcoast.net/~swag
Thurs Dec 7th	Womanspirit Circle in the First Yurt 7:30- 9:30, by invitation only contact Pat 250-656-6502 www.corunum.ca
Fri Dec 8th	Benefit/Fundraiser for Trey Arrow , 6-11 pm, 751 Discovery St, live music, workshops, movie - by donation
Sun Dec 10th	International Human Rights Day Info: www.aflcio.org/joinaunion/voiceatwork/d10_aroundtheworld.cfm
Sun Dec 10th	Open Doors Choir at Cadboro Bay Village Info: 385-2454
Tues Dec 12th	Sacred Circle Dance into Winter 7-9 pm, Friends' Meeting House, 1831 Fern St by donation 592-2848
Sat Dec. 16th	Is hard work causing global warming? 1-3:30 Central Library seminar rm 735 Broughton lgli2020@shaw.ca www.livableincome.org
Sun Dec 17th	Open Doors Choir at St. Savior's Church morning service
Sun Dec 17th	"Women, Embrace your Magic ...'tis the season" 1-6:00 pm, \$25, 5990 Old West Saanich Rd. Info: Karin 246-8636 or www.corunum.ca
Mon Dec 18th	Open Doors Choir at First Metropolitan Church for Our Place Christmas Party - 2-4 pm
Tues Dec 19th	Victoria Street Newz receives Quality of Life Challenge Award - 5:30-6:30, Cornerstone Café, Fernwood
Thurs Dec 21th	Winter Solstice Light Ceremony w/ Earthdream Med. 7-11:00 pm, 5990 Old W Saanich Rd, \$12, Silverhawk 652-6558 w3.corunum.ca
Sun Dec 24th	A Public Vigil of Lament & Naming - 4 res. school murdered & disappeared-10 am, United Churches, hiddenfromhistory@yahoo.ca
Sun Dec 31st	Int'l Children's Painting Competition on the Environment closes. Info: www.unep.org/tunza/children/climatechange/default.asp
Jan 15-19th	2nd Homeless Needs Survey (formerly Homeless Count) - 383-1977, www.coolaid.org

Can you help? The Victoria Human Exchange Society is looking for: 4-5 bedroom house rent/lease long term preferred but negotiable ... close to public transportation; 2 bathrooms, plumbed for washer/dryer or 5 appliances, small porch or yard or deck. PRICE: \$1,200.00 - \$1,400.00 PER MTH Contact Joan: In Greater Victoria: 361-2762 or outside Victoria: 1-800-691-9366 www.humanx.org jvez@shaw.ca

"We Americans have been inclined to confine both the stories of US imperial expansion and the stories of the repression of nonwhites, women, and working-class people within our borders to a collective unconsciousness as too painfully contrary to our national self-concept to acknowledge. It is not only a denial of the injustice in which we are complicit but also a denial of the reality of Empire and the troubling truth that our nation is not - and never has been - a democracy. To achieve the democracy that is central to our national self-image we must first acknowledge that we have never had it." *David Korten*

Food Resources

9-10 CLUB (ST. ANDREW'S SOUP KITCHEN)

740 View St. Victoria, B.C. V8W 1J8 ph: 388-5571 8 - 10am seven days a week. Church-run club providing daily meals on a drop-in basis.

ANAWIM COMPANION SOCIETY

973 Caledonia Street Victoria B.C. V8T 1E7 phone: 382-0283
Mon, Tues, Thurs 10am - 5 pm, Weds, Fri 10am-8pm, Sat 10am 4pm
Laundry, showers, meals, clothing, limited housing spaces.

COMMUNITY FOOD BANK

4-697 Goldstream Avenue, Victoria, B.C., V9B 2X2 phone: 474-4443
Tues, Weds: 10am 3pm, Closed last week of month

FOOD NOT BOMBS - a collectively run food kitchen. Ph: 383-5144, ext 1940
Free vegetarian serving Sundays, 3 pm - Harris Green (Pandora & Vancouver)
Bring plastic containers for bowls, bags 4 produce. <http://resist.ca/~fnb-victoria>

FRUIT AND VEGGIE BOX

C/o Blanshard Community Centre phone: 388-7696
James Bay Community Project phone: 388-7844
WorkLink Employment Society phone: 478-9525
Victoria Native Friendship Centre phone: 384-3211

Wholesale prices, various size boxes. Pay first, pick up following wk.

JAMES BAY COMMUNITY SCHOOL

140 Oswego Street, Victoria, B.C. V8V 2B1 phone: 389-1470
-Seniors Dinners on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 5 PM - \$5.75
-Community Dinners Weds, approx. every other mth, usually \$4 & \$2 -12 & under.
Tickets must be purchased at the centre in advance-Community school cafe open
Mon - Fri 11:45 am -12:30 pm. \$3.25 & child 2.75.

MEALS ON WHEELS

phone: 479-6900
For residents of Greater Victoria who, because of age, disability or illness, are unable to prepare an adequate meal for themselves, have inadequate cooking facilities, have no one to prepare meals, or have health and social needs. Referrals from doctors, health & Social Services agencies, concerned friends, family, or personal requests. Current cost of meals- \$6.75. In addition to nutritional benefits, some social interaction.

MUSTARD SEED STREET CHURCH

www.mustardseed.ca
625 Queens Avenue, Victoria, B.C., V8T 1L9 phone: 953-1575
Outreach: Mon-Fri 8am-4pm, Food bank: M,T,W,Th 9-11:45am, 12:30-2:00 pm M,W,F - Family Hampers, Th - Singles & Couples w/out children. Food bank is closed the week following welfare cheque day. Drop in for food, friendship, counseling, and crisis intervention. Food hampers available. One visit/mth.

OUR PLACE (formerly the Open Door)

713 Johnson St., Victoria, BC V8W 1M8 phone: 385-2454

7am - 3 pm Monday to Friday, closed weekends

Victoria's 'Living Room' - a drop in centre with free sandwiches, doughnuts, coffee, tea, bread,, clothing room, counseling, referrals, sometimes produce & pet clinic.

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY

828 View Street, Victoria B.C. V8W 1K2 phone: 382-0712
9 am-12:30 pm, 1:30 pm-4:30 pm Mon-Friday, Tues aft for Women
Must be 19 yrs, unless referred by parents, ASK, or Soc Services. Food, clothing, household items. Home visits, food vouchers for parents w/children.

SAINT SAVIOUR'S KITCHEN

310 Henry Street, Church Hall (VicWest) phone: 384-8773
Rainbow Kitchen for everyone, Weds, Thurs, Fris, 12 noon 1:30 pm
Shelter Weds-Sat nights, arrive 9-10 pm: mats, blankets, often food. Space for 25-35.

SALVATION ARMY, Family Services and Counselling (singles, too)

2695 Quadra, at Hillside ph: 386-8521 Monday Friday, 9 am 3:30 pm
Emergency food hampers, clothing & small housewares vouchers.
Extra shelter space only available in sub zero temperatures.

SIKH TEMPLE

Blackwood at Topaz (towards summit park), enter right side door
Every Sunday at noon - Free food serving, lentil dahl and chapatis, etc.

STREETLINK EMERGENCY SHELTER

1634 Store St., Victoria, B.C. V8W 1S2 ph: 384-3634, office 383-1951
Free dinner 7 days a week, 3 pm for meal ticket, serving at 3:30

ST. JOHN THE DIVINE

1611 Quadra St., Victoria, B.C., V8W 2L5 phone: 383 7169
Food bank open Tues & Fridays, 10 am-noon, in church basement. (Closed Fri and Tuesday after Welfare Wednesday, and Tuesdays after Monday stat.)

UPPER ROOM SOCIETY

919 Pandora Avenue, Victoria, B.C., V8V 3P4 phone: 388-7112
Office Hrs: Mon-Fri 9am-4pm Meals: Mon-Sat 12-1pm, 45:30 pm
Meal pass costs \$26 a month, or \$1 at the door.

Good Food Box Program - Duncan area - 250-746-4204,
www.providence.bc.ca, mlthomson@uniserve.com

Breakfast Club

First Saturday: Christ Church Cathedral at St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church Hall
- 680 Courtney St., 7:45-9:30 am

Second Saturday: St. Andrew's Presbyterian Hall, 680 Courtney St, 8-10 am

Third Saturday: Glad Tidings Pentecostal Church Hall, 1800 Quadra St. 8-10

Fourth Saturday: Central Baptist Church, 833 Pandora, 8-10 am; 385-7786

Fifth Saturday: BC Ferry Workers' Union at St. Andrew's Hall, 8-10 am

DAY WORKERS FOR HIRE

We provide dependable labour for the odd jobs that arise in your home, office, or business. All wages go directly to the workers.

101-749 Pandora, 388-9296

Housing Resources

No Cost for Service, Time Limited Stay

Salvation Army (Emerg men only) 525 Johnson Street, 384-3396

Streetlink 1634 Store Street, 383-1951

Sandy Merriman House (for women) 809 Burdett Avenue, 480-1408

Sobering & Assessment Ctr (24 hr) 1125 Pembroke (@ Cook) 213-4444

Out of the Rain (Youth 15-25) 812-0490 winter only, various locations

Kiwanis Youth Shelter (13-18) 2117 Vancouver St., 386-8282

Hill House - Women with children 479-3963

Sooke Transition House 642-2591 Women with or without children

Vic. Women's Transition House 385-6611 Women with or w/out kids

Cridge Centre for the Family 1190 Kings Rd 386-7291 Women & kids

Kiwanis House for single women 16-29 w/ one child 382-1004

Margaret Laurence House 995-0058 Women & kids escaping abuse

Low Cost Monthly Rentals

YWCA Women's Residence - 880 Courtney Street, 386-7511

Ritz Hotel - 710 Fort Street, 381-1868

Fairfield Hotel - 710 Cormorant St., 386-1621

York Hotel - 711 Johnson Street, 385-2544

Douglas Hotel - 1450 Douglas Street, 383-4157

Ocean Island Backpackers - 791 Pandora Avenue 385-1788

Turtle Refuge Backpackers - 1608 Quadra Street 386-4471

Vic. Human Exchange Soc. 361- 2762, 1-800-691-9366, www.humanx.org

Extreme Outreach - men only, \$350 + dep. No alcohol or drugs. 708-2064

Subsidized and/or Supported Housing Services

BC Housing (subsidized - low income families, 55+, or w/disabilities)

301-3440 Douglas Street, 475-7550 www.bchousing.org

Burnside Gorge Community Assoc. 388-5251 members.shaw.ca/bgca

Capital. Region Housing (subsidized, low income families, 55+, disabilities)
623 Fisgard, 388-6422 www.crd.bc.ca/housing

Coordinated Housing Registry (subsidized & supported housing)
www.coolaid.org 826 Cormorant St. 356-2548

M'Akola Housing Society 384-1423

Pacifica Housing Advisory Assoc. (families) 827 Fisgard 385-2131

Pacifica Housing Serv/Downtown Outreach Serv (connects low-income folk w/ housing in private sector) 826 Cormorant 356-2555

Pandora Youth Apts 753 Pandora, For 15-19 yrs, Andrea - 380-2663

St. Vincent de Paul Soc. 382-2767 www.svdpvictoria.com/services/

Victoria Senior Citizen Housing Society #501-620 View, 384-3434

Housing Searches on the Internet

BC Housing Subsidized Housing List www.bchousing.org

Brown Bros. Property Management www.brownbros.com

BC Co-Operative Housing www.chf.bc.ca/

Camosun Off Campus Housing List <http://www.myidealhome.com/ccss>

David Burr Property Management www.davidburr.com

Off Campus Housing for students housing.uvic.ca/ads/index.php

www.homes4students.ca

Helpful Housing Hints

1. Add your name to the BC Housing list.

2. Add your name to the Coordinated Housing Registry.

3. Get the addresses & phone numbers of subsidized or supported housing units from the Cool Aid Society, the BGCA, M'Akola, etc. If you find one you like, make friends, impress them, ask them to pull your name off the list. They can let you in, but you have to be listed with BC Housing first.

Some places to call for help

Action Committee of People with Disabilities - 926 View St., 383-4105

Adult Addiction Comm. Treatment Serv: 2nd floor, 1250 Quadra, 727-3544

AIDS Vancouver Island: 1601 Blanshard St., 384-2366

Alano Club: 1402 Broad St, 383-9151

Alcoholics Anon: #8, 2020 Douglas, 383-7744 (help), 383-0415 (off)

Cool-Aid Medical Clinic: 385-1466

Cool-Aid Phone Message Service (\$5/mth): 383-1977

Credit Counselling - 477-9998

Foundation of Support of Recovery for Men: 480-1342

Grief/Bereavement Counsel: Lorraine Jasmin, R.P.C., 1198 Goldstream, sliding scale

Men's Trauma Centre: 381-6367, #203-1420 Quadra St. www.menstrauma.ca

Outreach Services Methadone Clinic: 2004 Fernwood Rd., 480-1232

Problem Gambling Help Line - 1-888-795-6111

Prostitute Empowerment & Education (PEERS): 744 Fairview Rd., 388-5325

Research, Education, Evaluation, & Support Prog. (REES): 595-8619

Salvation Army Addictions & Rehab Centre: 525 Johnson, 384-3396

Society of Living Intravenous Drugusers (SOLID): 7-9 pm Weds, 1947 Cook

Together Against Poverty Society (TAPS): #415 - 620 View Street 361-3521

Victoria Native Friendship Centre: 384-3211 -- 231 Regina Ave V8Z 1J6

Victoria Sobering & Assessment Centre: 1125 Pembroke, 213-4444

Vancouver Island Addiction Recovery Soc.: 536 Cecilia, 480-1342

Youth-to-Youth Support Line - 24 hours. Confidential. 386-TALK, www.youthlines.ca

Arterial

By Matt Fair - mattfair@telus.net,
put "article" in subject line.

One reason I have always worked to promote the concept of Guaranteed Livable Income (GLI), is that, as a medicine, it is *arterial*. GLI is not a "special interest" to do with identifiable groups, whether the "disabled," the "emotionally disturbed," the exhausted wage-slave, the "homeless," the battered women, the environmentalists, the hopeless soldiers, the disaster victims, the cancer victims, etc etc-- many of whom unintentionally "provide content" for social service organizations, perpetuating the *necessity* of poverty to sustain pyramids of careers.

Actually, the idea of medicine here, appropriate to today's world, after a little thinking gives way to the image of a baby transitioning from placenta (scarcity) to lungs and atmosphere (abundance). GLI is humanity's first breath, the first breath of democracy (an old idea whose time has come).

Incidentally, Buckminster Fuller, who had the most generous and scientifically-based vision of GLI, wrote that the fossil fuels were our placenta for democracy runs much deeper than the invention of industrialization, but sooner or later we must transfer to the unlimited power source of the sun—which, like to choose which millionaire lawyers or businessmen GLI, threatens investments in the *scarce* power-source, "black gold"—preferring a source that is dark, hidden, scarce, and Jurassic, rather than one which is solar, open, transparent, and unlimited. And it is curious that such a notorious lubricant itself requires so much grease of human blood. Fuller also said, speaking of our "fierce competitive world" that people do not kill each other in competition for air, they do not *think* of competing for air because they take air for granted as abundant; but in a burning theatre, they trample each other to death in the sudden competition. Why then, we ask, are the children of Africa, for instance, being trampled to death in the open air of global wealth?

THIS IS NOT A BURNING THEATRE!

Though some environmentalists say, "just wait." The first cheque (or direct deposit) of a Guaranteed Livable Income is democracy's first breath, a painless transfer to the new operating system, a much more decentralized infrastructure co-ordinated technologically. This is one of evolution's great sudden discontinuities, matrix shifts, quantum-leaps. If you think evolution is "brick by brick," you need a little refocus of your pattern-recognition, or process-recognition. The chick does not erode her way out of the shell. Sometimes evolution gets frisky and we evolve in leaps and bounds.

In this case, it's up to us. GLI is *arterial*: like the arteries, it supplies oxygen to all the organs, and especially those endangered "organelles" which constitute the social organs, *individuals* -- who liberal democracy is supposed to serve ("The collectivity is there to serve the individuals" - Pierre Trudeau).

In his 1998 Massey Lectures, Canadian philosopher Jean Vanier said, "Can we hope for a society whose metaphor is not a pyramid, but a *body*? --where each of us is a vital part in the harmony and function of the whole."

One assumes that Vanier used this image from 1 Corinthians 12. Verses 14 to 26 serve beautifully as a model for democracy, which I'll make explicit after the quotation:

14 For the body is not one member, but many.
15 If the foot shall say, Because I am not the hand, I am not of the body; is it therefore not of the body?
16 And if the ear shall say, Because I am not the eye, I am not of the body; is it therefore not of the body?
17 If the whole body were an eye, where were the hearing? If the whole were hearing, where were the smelling?
18 But now hath God set the members every one of them in the body, as it hath pleased him [sic].
19 And if they were all one member, where were the

body?

20 But now are they many members, yet but one body.

21 And the eye cannot say unto the hand, I have no need of thee: nor again the head to the feet, I have no need of you.

22 Nay, much more those members of the body, which seem to be more feeble, are necessary:

23 And those members of the body, which we think to be less honourable, upon these we bestow more abundant honour; and our uncomely parts have more abundant comeliness.

24 For our comely parts have no need: but God hath tempered the body together, having given more abundant honour to that part which lacked.

25 That there should be no schism in the body; but that the members should have the same care one for another.

26 And whether one member suffer, all the members suffer with it; or one member be honoured, all the members rejoice with it.

The philosophical tradition of the concept of democracy runs much deeper than the invention of the ballot—which these days gives us the "freedom" to choose which millionaire lawyers or businessmen, or women "represent" us, the same "freedom" (the kind GWB always touts) to choose between Coke and Pepsi, Players or Marlboro, a child to serve your sexual needs, or an AK-47—assuming the obvious of course, that you have the money (in Thailand the child is 1/6 the price of the assault rifle).

The celebrated Canadian democratic theorist C. B. McPherson wrote about that deeper stream, which applies the principle of synergy to social contracts: a society that applies the "increment of association," the "chain that is stronger than its strongest link" to create enormous wealth, for the purpose, in turn, of supporting the *individual* citizen to develop her capacities.

The standard by which the theory must judge the democratic quality of any society, and by which its claim that any particular society is democratic, must be tested, is how nearly it attains the presently attainable maximum, i.e. the maximum level of abilities to use and develop human capacities given the presently possible human command over external nature.

C.B. McPherson, *Democratic Theory* (emphasis MF)

The large serves the small—that seems right. It fits. The entire sky serves the individual baby with all the air in the world.

So much wealth has come from memetic descent and the co-operation of human beings that it has kicked out the supporting platform, some would say bedrock, of market economics altogether—the assumption, no, the imperative of scarcity.

GLI: *arterial*: blood flow through the body to refresh every organ, so that the most important worker on earth, the mother, can do her job; so that the writer can write, the painter paint, the psychologist explore, the healer heal, the gardener garden, and whatever you like to do, perhaps share laughter, perhaps play with kids, or play with words, or play piano, perhaps independent study/research, tracking some interest out beyond the box to where, as Emerson wrote, "in the end, it ripens into truth."

We are a many-gifted group, us humans, animals, and plants. Our economic system has systematically—and conscientiously hounded individuality to death or near-death. That is why the term "self-interest" as applied to obsessive money-making is so ironic. Obsessive monkey-making mimicry. "Big Pharma" has

been one of the most useful tools for the hounding of the individual, coupled with a public school system whose "covert curriculum" (Toffler, 1980) has always

been "obedience, conformity, and rote, repetitive work." (For an explicit and fascinating exposé of the history of schooling in North America, read John Taylor Gatto's *The Underground History Of American Education*—available online for those with access.)

Arterial: from the lonely boy in school who thinks his compassion evidence of failure, the girl who feels pressured to hide her intelligence, the 40-year-old whose death taps the shoulder saying "having fun yet?" to the exhausted nurse, home-care worker, logger, janitor, prison guard... to you, whoever you are: a Guaranteed Livable Income, supported as perfectly viable by many economists, would instantly dissolve two major institutions—poverty, and slavery. By slavery, of course, is meant the trading of days, energy, and freedom for subsistence.

"There is enough to go round.... handsomely" said Buckminster Fuller, who informed us that a consensus of scientists in 1955 had published this assertion: humanity had the tools in place to feed, clothe, and shelter everyone on the planet at high standards of living, including the means to support increasing populations at ever-improving standards of living. As you know, technology is evolving so rapidly now that we can call those scientists' declaration conservative understatement.

GLI is *arterial*: it brings oxygen to every nerve cell, from the big toe of humanity to the hair-tips. Everyone on the planet can join the party, no more need for 20,000 deaths a day from hunger, nor even for the brutal despair of poverty for parents reliant on food banks (many working full time).

Not only does it liberate them immediately, it lets food-bank supporters fold up and go canoeing, lets those miserable welfare workers go and write a novel (tell what they know but weren't allowed to say), lets you or I offer our services to an employer on agreeable terms, to get money for luxuries.

There's no "We" who support the poor on "our" backs—and "Them," those lazy mothers looking for a handout. *If the foot shall say, Because I am not the hand, I am not of the body; is it therefore not of the body?* There's just us, the passengers on this spacecraft, the animals, plants, and humans.

John F. Kennedy said, "ask not what your country can do for you, ask what you can do for your country." Sorry Jack, that's totalitarianism, fascism, what-have-you.

What your country can and should do for you is, first, support your life with the living essentials (any system dedicated to the development of the individual knows there is no individual without the living essentials); support life and community with infrastructure, provide the means for the development of talents, and, crucial now, give you *free time* in which to undergo the recovery process, and then to get on with what you really want to do, which will be your contribution.

No hurry for it, take your time, there's no shortage, no scarcity, no desperate need for your production—there has been overproduction in industry for 100 years, there's lots of inventory to clear. And five percent of the population is all that is needed to keep everything running smoothly to provision us (Gatto, 1995).

You've heard of supply and demand? That's a bullshit term economists use. What they mean is supply and "demand-among-those-with-enough-money."

Democracy, folks: "enough money" is now available to us all. That should be our first demand. Municipal politicians are household servants—premiers, prime ministers, presidents are head butlers—a perfectly honorable job—in our mansion. Demand a Guaranteed Livable Income here at home, and around the planet. Let's all hold hands and take our first breath.

Matt Fair is a multimedia artist, philosopher, & founding member of L.I.F.E., living in Victoria. He collaborates with Jack Saturday at jacksatu.blogspot.com and can also be found at www.theworldesyoualiving.org.



Dreams Realized in Fernwood

On Monday, October 30th a dream became a reality in Fernwood.

After 15 months converting a boarded up building into market-based affordable housing and a community-run coffee shop, Fernwood Neighbourhood Resource Group (NRG) opened the Cornerstone Building. City councillor Helen Hughes - representative to Fernwood - was on hand for the ribbon cutting ceremony and Member of Parliament, Denise Savoie and MLA Rob Fleming spoke with enthusiasm about the project.

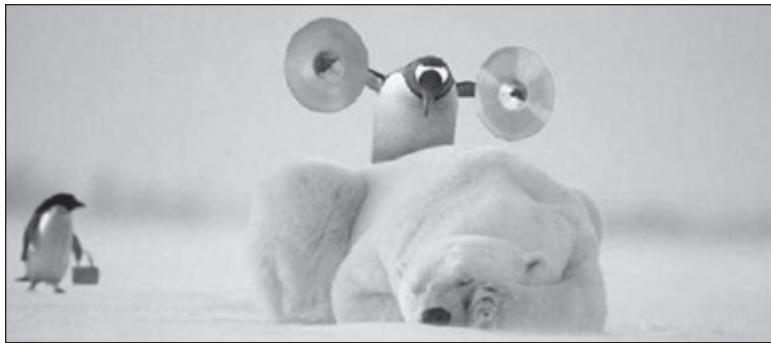
The Cornerstone building was renovated by neighbourhood hands including thousands of hours of volunteer work and stands as a testimony to the ways in which people can make a difference right in their own back yards.

photo: Anne Murphy -- Left to Right - Denise Savoie (MP), Roberta Martell (E.D., Fernwood NRG), Lisa Helps (Chair, NRG), Lee Herrin (Board, NRG), Rob Fleming (MLA). (Lisa Helps is also on the board of Bread and Roses Collective which supports this newzpaper).



Anthony Fenton Reads the Street Newz !!!

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Anthony_Fenton
<http://dominionpaper.ca/accounts/>



Hey, Big Brother -- Wake Up !!

Open letter to Minister of Immigration,

I'm in the process of renewing my passport, and still cannot believe this.

How is it that Radio Shack has my address and telephone number and knows that I bought a t.v. cable from them back in 1997, and yet, the Federal Government is still asking me where I was born and on what date.

For crying out loud, do you guys do this by hand? My birth date, you have on my social insurance card, on all the income tax forms I've filed for the past 30 years, my health insurance card, my driver's licence, on the last eight bloody passports I've had, on all those stupid customs declaration forms I've had to fill out before being allowed off the planes over the last 30 years, and all those insufferable census forms that are done at election times.

Would somebody please take note, once and for all, that my mother's name is Mary, my father's name is Richard and I'd be absolutely astounded if that ever changes between now and when I die! Jezzzz.

I apologize, Mr. Minister. I'm really ticked off this morning. Between you an' me, I've had enough! You send the application to my house, then you ask me for my freakin' address. What is going on? You have a gang of Neanderthals workin' there?! Look at my damn picture. Do I look like Ben Laden? I don't want to dig up Yasser Arafat, for crying out loud. I just want to go and park my butt on a sandy beach. And would someone please tell me, why would you care whether I plan on visiting a farm in the next 15 days?!

Well, I have to go now, 'cause I have to go to the other side of the city and get another bloody copy of my birth certificate, to the tune of \$60 because YOU lost my last one! Would it be so complicated to have all the services in the same spot to assist in the issuance of a new passport the same day?? Nooooo, that'd be too easy!

You'd rather have us running all over the place like chickens with our heads cut off, then find some bozo to confirm that it's really me on the stupid picture - you know, the one where we're not allowed to smile? Hey, you know why we can't smile? We're ticked off!

Signed - An Irate Citizen

Addendum:

Regarding my effort at trying to start a mass campaign to light a fire under Dept. of Citizenship & Immigration, I am sad to report that "the message could not be delivered." I know that I got the e-mail address correct, for I carefully researched the government web-site until I found it in their massive list of this and that. I must admit that I was forced to find an e-mail address under another site, not the Dept. of Citizenship & Immigration. So, sad to say, I caused myself a lot of work for nothing!

Let's face it guys, WE ARE JUST SPAM, ALONG WITH ALL THE OTHERS WHO JUST WANT THE GOVERNMENT TO RESPECT OUR TIME AND MONEY, AND THOSE OF US WHO WANT SOMETHING WORTH WHILE FOR THE BUCKS THAT WE MUST PAY EVERY 5 YEARS TO GET ANOTHER PASSPORT.



Disposing of the Bodies

by Florence Richard

In today's world, under the profit system, it is more important to work than it is to maintain oneself in a viable condition. There are no more persons, only bodies. This attitude has long roots. Governments are universally embarrassed and nervous when elevated numbers of unemployed are visible to the public. It keeps wages low, which they appreciate, but they fear the outrage of the general public.

During the depression of the 1930s, the Conservative Government under R.B. Bennett created the Road Camps. These camps housed unemployed men. They were paid five dollars, \$5 per month to do road work. They worked with pick and shovel in all kinds of weather, eight hours a day, six days a week. Yes, the Trans-Canada Highway was built with slave labour. Any man found 'loitering' and homeless was herded into a local camp. He had no choice. It was either camp or jail. That was Bennett's way of getting live bodies off the streets and railroad box cars. The Tories were supplanted by a Liberal Government in 1933 with McKenzie King as Prime Minister. He disbanded the camps, but the high level of unemployment continued for four more years.

The question of what to do with an overabundance of live bodies was resolved in 1939 when Great Britain declared war on Germany and the Axis powers. King immediately declared for Canada as a colonial ally. There was little opposition to the war. It was largely seen as right and just. It also served to absorb vast numbers of unemployed men and women, who were glad to sign up in order to eat, regardless of any political conviction. So, McKenzie King was finally able to deal with the problem of too many live bodies roaming the streets.

We are all familiar with Hitler's method: 'The Final Solution' i.e. extermination camps. However, Hitler and his cohorts, who had no problem with killing people, ran into difficulties disposing of dead bodies. They just could not cremate them fast enough. At war's end, bodies were found in the extermination camps piled like cordwood awaiting the overworked ovens.

Technological innovations to reduce labour proliferate in all industrial and commercial enterprises. Mergers and takeovers shrink the work force. Thousands upon thousands have been dismissed from their jobs. This is now a world-wide phenomenon. From the viewpoint of the global hierarchy, there is again an over-abundance of unemployed bodies. Vast numbers have become 'street people' and are a living testimony to the inadequacy of the profit system.

Would it surprise anyone to know that a method for dispensing with these unwanted bodies has long since been devised and put into operation?

In 1996 a book, *Emerging Viruses: Aids and Ebola. Nature, Accident or Intentional*, by Leonard G. Horowitz was published by Tetrahedron, Inc. Rockport, MA. It was

reviewed on a radio program. I obtained a copy. According to this book, many highly paid scientific investigators and microbiologists worked diligently for many years to create pathogens that would neutralize or depress the human immune system. Their many laboratories in the USA and South Africa were largely owned and/or supervised by the American Military, although some pharmacological corporations were also involved. Their mandate was to create biological weapons of war. These pathogens were stockpiled and testing began in specific areas. They undertook to immunize local, black populations in Africa against smallpox, polio, measles and/or other diseases.

Their efforts were routinely successful with regard to these illnesses. However, the AIDS virus has a long incubation period. A few years later, when no one would associate the malady with the immunization project, the AIDS virus began to be diagnosed in these same populations. Now all Africa far and wide is devastated with HIV-AIDS. It's called "population control."

In New York, San Francisco and other centers, the male populations of the Gay Communities were told that they were vulnerable to hepatitis C. They were urged to enter a program of inoculation to protect them against this serious illness. These men willingly cooperated. Are we not all aware that the North American AIDS epidemic began in the gay communities? As for the bodies associated with the death toll, they have to be taken care of by their families or communities. The USA Military and/or government will deny any responsibility. This is indeed a refinement on Hitler's method.

If anyone questions the veracity of the above, the book can be found at or ordered through a local book store. It is also available at the local Library.

In view of the dismal outlook created by this brief look at a present day catastrophe, would not everyone, on whatever side of the equation, be much happier with a Guaranteed Livable Income?

What we are contemplating here, is a new world order. A small fraction of our workforce is now able to produce all the necessities and comforts of life at minimal cost. With food, clothing, housing, and all facets of health-care and education provided as a Right for everyone, inspiration would take over. All manner of non-polluting energy, which is already known and available, would proliferate. The arts would flourish. We could investigate acceptable forms of birth control rather than "population control." The need and greed for oil would be passé. No more wars to create profits for the few, devastation for the populace, and ecological degradation. Care for one another would replace confrontation. Competition would find its natural place in sports, fairs and all manner of creative expositions.

We are back to the Golden Rule. "Love one another." In doing this we naturally fulfill all other requirements of human responsibility.

Florence is an elder who has lived to see many changes that were deemed impossible. She's called Victoria home for just over five years. Having lived through much turmoil and hardship, Florence remains vitally concerned for the welfare and dignity of the homeless and dispossessed.

photo thanks to John and Heather



Street Muzings

Freedom

I sing to you of freedom my friend
it begins with the heart.
When you wish to soar beyond your suffering
this is the freedom you long for.
When you shed your tears that angels treasure
this is your freedom, my friend.
When you laugh with your brother from the bottom of your soul
this is the freedom you seek.

And when I embrace the other as thou
and forget all that separates one from the other:
my culture, my beliefs, my country, my family
when you move beyond these differences, my friend
Liberation lives in the palm of your hand
and you love the world and suffer with it freely.

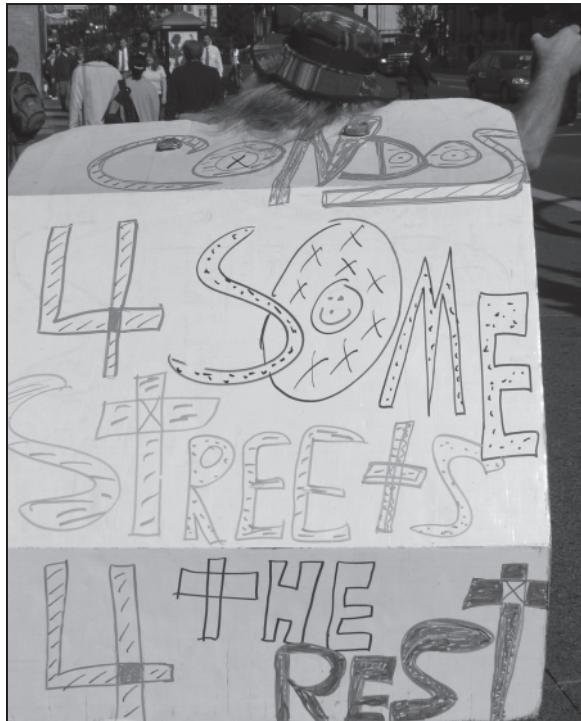
Penelope



I am so annoyed by the underhanded, no - treasonous, - tactics of the Provincial government regarding the privatisation of B.C. power generation, and the silence of the media, that I had to write some poetry. With abject apologies to Alice, the Jabberwock and Lewis Carroll.

Twas NAFTA and the Campbelllogues did sleaze and threepie in the water;
all BC was the Hydro scam and the Neufeld power disaster.
Beware the Corporate my son, the private greed, the public costs.
Beware the resource privatised and shun the devious Bill 3 Oh.
He took his voting card in hand, longtime the quisling pig he fought;
Then numbered he by the cashflow tree and knew what he had lost.

Derek Skinner - dj76is@shaw.ca



Sing to the tune of God Bless America. The spelling of Amerika alludes to Jerry Reuben's Do It and Abby Hoffman's Revolution for the Hell of It and the Chicago Eight.

God Stress Amerika

God stress Amerika
Land I reprove
Stand astride her
And chide her
Through the flight
From the Right
I approve.

At the fountain
There's a rally
Because the ocean
Is slick with oil.

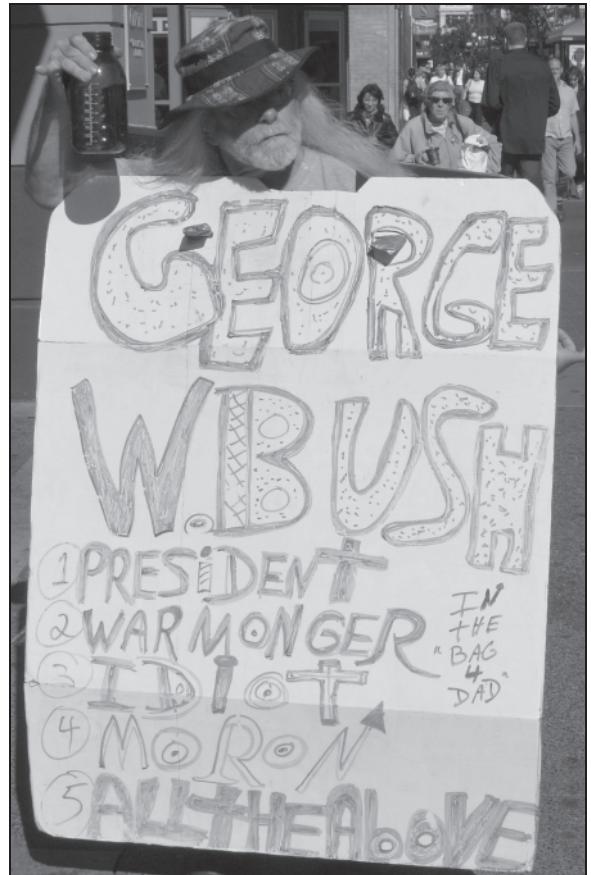
God stress Amerika
White Home, blind Gnome.
God stress Amerika
Blind Gnome, White Home.

George Simich

The Land of Trust

death shall overcome all these petty marketplaces
hallowed faces
battling races
there will simply be a period of sleep
where we forget the killing machine
hollow screams
where our dreams are not divided
we will stop wanting
the gold dust
endless lust
land of must
and will begin to let go
let go our relentless grip
on the gods of consumerism,
sadism,
terrorism,
we will simply let go
and sink into the forgetful land
of dust
a land where we can finally
trust

Nicole Moyal



Sitting On The Edge Of A Volcano I'm Only Human

Just shut the door quietly ... I don't care

Sitting on the edge of a volcano watching the earthquake go off I was looking for god and the devil to explain the human condition and why we should always be middling and the last to catch the meaning about what it all was all about. It was all to do with the page again and what was happening between the lines again under an ever expanding telescope sky. There never is an answer. There was a rumbling grumbling sound in around the ground in the crowd that day the explanation as usual not so very sound anyway. Someone said relativity had gone but all I could think of was: How could it go and where would it go to anyway? Where would relativity hide? If that was humanly possible anyway. Like with some Dylan (Thomas I mean) meaning: Where was it to go anyway? It's not open space for spacecraft they have to go somewhere anyway. Space and us. The whole Race that is. (The rats the followers and on.) It's not something really that could grow or die much anyway. This whole thing about the middle ground going. Cause you see I don't think we ever rose or fell in the way of a sunrise or in the way of a groundswell in an angel or apeway. It doesn't make much sense to me. The meaning of meaning like some mean on a graph. You can't graft meaning to meaning like some geranium then. Well this volcano which is never good or bad anyway more in the way that this planet works is all u can understand. And it's not in the way of the spelling either. And if they dig the mines too deep and forget to fill in all of the holes with small minds anyway something must fall in now. Now mussenit? Same with this sky of defoliants doesn't really have to fit clear language it just doesn't make much sense to me if you see now how it is i see. Just how I see now. And not in the way of explanation. I'm looking for a universal hero and not an earthly bad human being they seem so easy to find like some fatty rind round some fatty bacon. If that's the picture you want. Well this is my licentious way of doing it if you may please follow. Just shut the door quietly.

©Paul Burnside, Nov 6 06



Sketch of Chinese Public School on Fisgard St. in Victoria BC
by Marion Cumming

hunter gatherer

sopping muddled bundle
the easy mark
huddled under available shelter
sore for the nights labours
exquisite pray
hiding
knees tucked into chin
hood up
praying, teeth pulling on
paper cup lid
desperate for
another sip
one more drop
of warmth
a bracer
against moral backwash
on tendered flesh
just then the sky re-opens
the enemy
a forever wound
turning grey concrete sanctuary
into flowing stream
primal and inconsiderate
washing debris
human, and otherwise
off the early morning sidewalk
and back onto
the killing floor.

j. fisher
bathtubbing@hotmail.com

('bulletin from the low light' is a
newly released collection of j's
poetry, available at Munro's or
Dark Horse Books.)

Beacon Community Services

Thrift Shop

Borden & Mackenzie, Phone 479-8849
Open 9 to 8 M-F, 9 to 5 Sat, 10 to 4 Sun

Offering gently used clothing, jewellery, housewares, furniture, and much more at the lowest prices in the Victoria area!!!!

Enjoy volunteering? Call Trish at 479-3306
www.beaconcs.ca

Find a Computer a Home !!

Jim Butler and Larry Gagnon accept requests for and contributions of used computer components. They'll rebuild and redistribute internet capable computers (FREE or for a small fee) to low or no income individuals who make the request.

For more information call Jim at 474-3446



JOBS !!

Sign up with Vancouver Island Public Interest Research Group (VIPIRG) employment list-serve (it's free).

Check it out at:
<http://googlegroups.com/group/vipirg-joblist/subscribe>

Central America Support Committee

CASC
Join us first Wednesday of every month:
7:30 PM upstairs at 1923 Fernwood Road
Email: casc@telus.net
Phone: 598-7690
Web: <http://casc.communitypipe.org/>



Victoria's Activist Coffeehouse
598-7690 • 1923 Fernwood Road

Fair trade organic coffee
available by the cup or pound



#12 Centennial Square.
Tuesday to Friday 1pm to 5pm.
Phone: (250) 995-0265
www.victoriacarshare.ca



Formerly 'Granola Groovy,' we still carry all the great earth-friendly products that our customers have come to expect in addition to new lines of certified organic beds, bedding and baby products.

1005 Broad St, between Broughton and Fort Streets.
(250) 477-0146
info@granolagroovy.com

Spilt Milk Comedy Theatre



Are you interested in:

Murder Mysteries? Interactive Storytelling at schools, birthday parties, theatres, libraries? Character telegrams & Singing telegrams at offices, homes, parties?

Spilt Milk Comedy Theatre Productions offers many forms of IMPROVISATION at schools, private parties, office functions, workshops, classes, corporate entertainment specifically designed for seminars, conferences, product launches, retreats ...

The creative bar is set high, with light hearted irreverence that has endeared them to audiences st for the past 15 years. They have survived floods, locusts, 2 Tory administrations and a so far, 1 tax audit.

Contact: Scott Fidyk, Artistic Director, (250) 479-3374, laughs@spiltmilkcomedy.com

We are 10% funnier each year for the last 15 years!

Need Legal Assistance??

Access Justice - Volunteer lawyers offer advice on civil matters: Wednesdays 2-4 pm, 386-8521 and Thursdays noon-2 pm, 388-4728.

Legal Services Society - If you're low income and can't afford a lawyer.
200 - 747 Fort Street Victoria, BC V8W 3E9
(250) 388-4516, www.lss.bc.ca -- Mon to Fri - 9:00 am to 12:30 pm

UVic's Law Centre - Free legal representation if you qualify for legal assistance.
Interviews: Mon - Fri: 9:30 am - noon; 1:15 pm - 3:30 pm
Call for Appt: 385-1221 Info: thelawcentre.ca

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Serving Our Community



1020 Hillside Avenue
Phone: 250 360 2023
rob.fleming.mla@leg.bc.ca

Rob Fleming, MLA
Victoria - Hillside



Tony's Trailers

Bicycle trailers for every person and purpose

766 Handy Road, Mill Bay (250) 743-9915
tonyhoar@shaw.ca, tonystrailers.com

Contact Tony to learn how you can sponsor a mobile trailer for a homeless person!



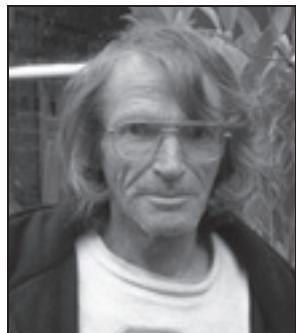
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Victoria Street Newz Distribution Team



Ken



Debbie



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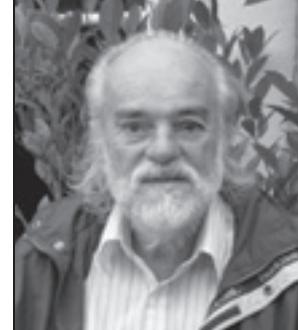
Marlene



Kay
(vendor emeritus)



John



Rick

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Bean Counting

Operating Revenue

Coordinator's Revenue

	Sept	Oct	Nov
Paper Sales (from vendors)	656.00	595.00	535.00
Donations	110.00	180.00	100.00
Subscriptions	0.00	50.00	0.00
Advertising	0.00	35.00	0.00
Salary from B & R	650.00	650.00	650.00
Belfry Bottles	40.00	0.00	53.00
Total Coordinator's Revenue	1456.00	1510.00	1338.00
B&R Revenue (deposited)			
Advertising	0.00	0.00	0.00
Donations	530.00	30.00	45.00
Subscriptions	35.00	20.00	75.00
Grant Monies	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total B&R Rev. (deposited)	565.00	50.00	120.00
Total Operating Revenue	1456.00	1510.00	1338.00

Operating Expenses

Coordinator's Expenses

	Sept	Oct	Nov
Paper & Printing Costs	579.28	597.78	588.74
Office expenses	195.00	36.00	26.00
Misc. (postage, fees, etc.)	61.26	68.90	58.00
Replacement Camera	390.00	0.00	0.00
Community reciprocity	105.00	60.00	150.00
Total Coordinator's Expenses	1330.54	762.68	822.74
B & R Expenses			
Bus Tickets (2 for 1)	35.00	35.00	35.00
fm City of Vic Grant	50.00	50.00	100.00
fm Vancity Grant	500.00	500.00	450.00
fm KAIROS Grant	50.00	50.00	50.00
fm PSAC Grant	50.00	50.00	50.00
sub ttl B&R Expenses	685.00	685.00	685.00
Total Operating Expenses	2015.54	1447.68	1507.74
Ttl Coord Rev minus Expenses	-559.54	62.32	-169.74
(- is out of pocket, + is salary)			

A Great Big Thank You !!

New or renewed subscribers: Fern Porteous, Marina Caroulas, Elizabeth Woods

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And anyone else I may have missed -

Thanks!!
we couldn't do it without you!!

Ted & Bok

Thanks to these Generous Supporters!!



thanks for the work you are doing
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that make it worthwhile (or able)
for me to go on
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